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## ***Introduction***

**Sue Ballyn**

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It has been a sad pleasure to put together this volume in memory of a dear friend and colleague to many across the world; Bruce Bennett, who died on 14 April 2012 after several years of fighting cancer. It seemed only fitting that a volume dedicated to him should appear in a European journal given his constant support for Australian Studies in Europe. Bruce, however, with his encyclopaedic knowledge was open to all areas of study and thus helped and took great interest in scholars working in other fields of Postcolonial Studies, such was his nature.

As guest editor of this edition of *Coolabah*, run from the Australian Studies Centre at Barcelona University, I have decided to divide the contributions into three sections; memoirs with Bruce as protagonist or mentioned, articles written specifically for Bruce and creative writing in his honour.

I am most grateful to all the contributors for making my task as editor easy given their close adherence to guidelines and deadlines. To all of you I want to express my thanks for your work and for helping to make this volume a memorable one which, I think, Bruce would have enjoyed. It is a sign of our joint appreciation of Bruce Bennett: loyal friend, generous colleague and great scholar.  
Barcelona, November 2012